**Identity Parade: Philosophy on Trial**

**Overview:**

*As per the short lesson on philosophy that was held last week, we will be exploring this issue of identify and personhood further in the following class exercise.   
  
We will be putting this memory-wiped individual - Bilbo - on trial for theft. The class will be split into two groups: the prosecution (who will be seeking a guilty verdict), and the defense (who will be seeking an innocent verdict).   
  
Whatever group you are put in, you* ***must*** *argue in favor of the group’s outcome. Even if you personally believe that Bilbo should be put in jail, if you are on the defense team, you must argue in favor of innocence.* ***In addition to philosophical thinking, this exercise will be a test of your ability to rationally and logically think through both sides of an argument.***

*We will be taking* ***45 minutes*** *for this trial.***General Details:**

**1.** I am the judge, jury, and executioner of this little trial. I will be seeking the most convincing argument to determine whether Bilbo lives, or ends up rotting in a jail cell somewhere in the Appalachians.

**2.** Your goal is to win the debate—whether that means having a better argument, or by revealing the flaws in the other side’s argument, is entirely up to you.

**Trial Format and Procedure:**

**1.** Each team will have a grand total of **20 minutes** for all aspects of their argument.

**a.** I will be following this time limit **strictly—I will be setting a timer and cutting you off even if you’re not finished speaking.**

**2.** The 20 minute blocks will be split into 5 minute intervals in the following order:

**a.** Opening statements: each team gives their opening statement, which outlines their main argument and main points.

**b.** Two periods of response time or prepared statements—this time is flexible and you can choose what you’d like to do with them.

**c.** Closing statement: this time can be used to rebut the other side’s argument, or to reinforce your own.

**3.** Every 5 minute block will have a new speaker, meaning that each group must have **4** speakers prepped for the trial. You may choose who speaks. ***Know that, if you do not speak in the trial, you will have to submit for homework a 2 paragraph “speech” that would comprise what you would argue in a 5 minute time slot for your group’s argument.***

**Grading:**

**1.** Grading will be based on a 20-point Socratic Seminar test grade, based on your thoroughness of argument, your eloquence in speaking/writing, and your adherence to the argument you are assigned to do.

**Suggestions:**

**1.** Try to anticipate what the other side will say/argue/try to prove—this way, you can be prepared with rebuttals beforehand.

**2.** Think as logically and rationally as possible—don’t let your emotions inhibit your ability to argue any side of the debate, even if you emotionally disagree with the stance I’m asking you to take.

**3.** Look at multiple angles for the argument—the importance of the law, the designation of what it means to be a person, the importance of memories, *etc.* There are many ways to argue in the high court of **LaFleche.**